CHRISTIAN UNITY Newsletter

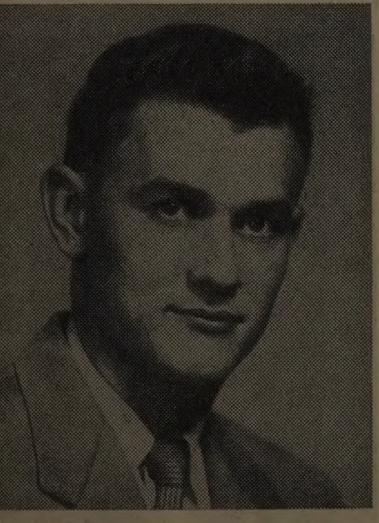
Vol. III OCTOBER, 1957 No. 2

ECUMENICAL SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

Scholarships for the 1957-58 term of he World Council of Churches' Graduate School of Ecumenical Studies have een awarded to Mr. Joe Lee Enochs, student at Brite College of the Bible n Fort Worth, Texas, and Rev. Bryer . Jones, minister of the New Glasgow hristian Church, Prince Edward sland, Canada.

The purpose of these scholarships is o help prepare young Disciples, lay nd clergy, for ecumenical leadership hrough study and experience in an cumenical setting.

Mr. Enochs is the second recipient of n annual scholarship for seminary stuents. Funds for this scholarship were rovided by Brite College of the Bible. Ir. Enochs, who is 24 years of age, eceived his A. B. degree from Texas hristian University and has completed wo years work at Brite College of the ible. He has served as student minster of the First Christian Church, Vills Point, Texas, and as a part time eacher in the undergraduate school of religion at TCU. He has also served in the United States Air Force in Korea.



Mr. Joe Lee Enochs

Rev. Jones is the first recipient of an annual scholarship for Disciples ministers and laymen at large. Funds for Rev. Jones' scholarship were provided by the Irwin-Sweeney-Miller Foundation of Columbus, Indiana. Rev. Jones, who is 30 years of age, was graduated from Teachers' College and from Prince of Wales College in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. He holds an A.B. degree from Victoria College, University of Toronto. He is a graduate of the College of Churches of Christ in Toronto, and he received his B.D. degree from Emmanuel College, Toronto, (a seminary of the United Church of Canada).

Mr. Jones taught in public schools of Prince Edward Island for three years. He was ordained in June 1955, and for the past two years has served as the minister of the New Glasgow Christian Church. He is also a member of the Regional Ecumenical Conference of the Canadian Council of Churches.

The Graduate School of Ecumenical Studies, beginning its sixth session this Fall, is conducted by the World Council's Ecumenical Institute in association with the University of Geneva. It is located at Celigny (near Geneva), Switzerland.

Rev. Bryer R. Jones

In addition to these two scholarships, the Council on Christian Unity nominates Disciple candidates to the ecumenical scholarship programs of the World Council of Churches and the Program of Advanced Religious Studies of Union Theological Seminary, New York.

47th ANNUAL REPORT TO BE PRESENTED

The following report on the work of the Council on Christian Unity for 1956-57 will be presented to the Cleveland Assembly of the International Convention, October 11-16:

Central Department of Christian Unity

Hampton Adams, Chairman

Joint Committee on Ecumenical Appointments, ***Gaines M. Cook, Chairman***

This committee, created jointly by the International Convention and the Council is responsible for nominating Disciple delegates to official ecumenical bodies and conferences. Members and alternates on the General Board and the Triennial Assembly of the National Council were nominated at the Des Moines Assembly,

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and are listed in the 1956 Year Book, (pp. 68-69) as elected. So also the first list of delegates to the Oberlin Faith and Order Conference, to which now must be added the names of Lin D. Cartwright, Ian McCrae, Irvin E. Lunger, and Parker Rossman.

During the year, on invitation of the Evangelical and Reformed and Congregational-Christian Churches, a delegation was appointed and sent to the uniting assembly of these two churches, consisting of Hampton Adams, George Walker Buckner, Gaines M. Cook, A. Dale Fiers and Mrs. Russell Putnam.

The Council has assisted when necessary with travel expenses to such official meetings.

Committee on Relations, Representation and Support of National and World Councils, *Gaines M. Cook, Chairman*

Through letters, articles and conferences the Council has encouraged local churches in their support of the National and World Councils. Support from local congregations for the World Council has increased by 6% in the last year and is now $5,000 below our total quota of $19,050. Support for the National Council has increased 8% and is $7,500 below the $32,600 goal set by the Des Moines Assembly (Resolution 64). Support for the new headquarters building of the World Council has been solicited from a select list of local churches and individuals, and $16,005 now received in cash and pledges toward a total goal of $20,000 set by the Des Moines Assembly (Resolution 64).

Committee on Relations with Churches and Union Movements Abroad, *Virgil A. Sly, Chairman*

Study documents on our relations with churches in Germany and Italy have been prepared and are being published. A study of union proceedings in Thailand and North India/Pakistan and potential Disciple involvement is in process, together with a theological study of documents of the Church of South India. A preliminary document on proselytism and Christian witness has been submitted to the World Council committee studying this problem. A statement on "Who Disciples Are" has been prepared by Ralph Wilburn for use of Disciples traveling abroad.

Department of Ecumenical Service

C. O. Hawley, Chairman

Inter-Church Aid. The Director, Robert Tobias, participated in the World Consultation on Inter-Church Aid in England, conferred with World Council staff in Geneva and visited among churches in Greece, Egypt, Jerusalem, Turkey, Yugoslavia and Germany in May and June.

After survey and study, inter-church aid projects overseas totalling over $300,000 have been recommended to the Committee on Relief Appeals for possible inclusion in the 1958 Week of Compassion program. Of particular ecumenical significance in the 1957 program was the support for churches in Hungary and Poland and for churches ministering to people in distress in Asia and Africa.

Fraternal Workers. Malcolm McCallum has continued his work of relief and resettlement in Egypt, a work made more demanding by the Suez crisis. New appointments by the Council (with funds from Week of Compassion) include James D. Wyker, agricultural and economic rehabilitation work under the East Pakistan Christian Council; Harry Partin, a joint study by the World Council and International Missionary Council on renaissant religions in Asia and Africa; Jim and Rita Gribble, temporary assignment to the World Council for work among Hungarian refugees.

Scholarships. The first "seminaries' scholarship" was awarded by The College of the Bible to Delos B. McKown, who completed a term of study at the Graduate School of Ecumenical Studies, Switzerland, in February. The second annual

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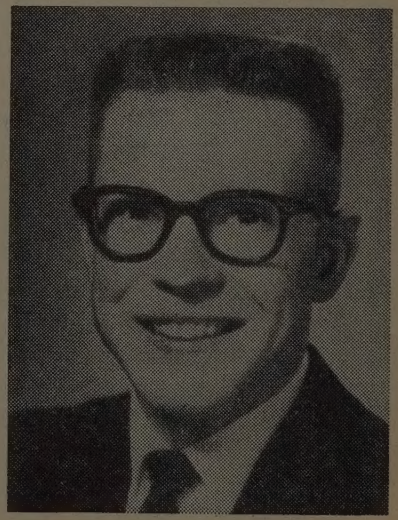
HECKARD JOINS COUNCIL STAFF

Mr. Robert W. Heckard of Des Moines, Iowa, joined the staff of the Council on Christian Unity as publications and general assistant beginning September 1.

Mr. Heckard is a recent graduate of Iowa State College in Ames, Iowa. For the past year he has served as student minister of the Christian Church of Monteith, Iowa. Mr. Heckard is now attending the School of Religion at Butler University in Indianapolis where he is working on his B.D. degree. While attending the School of Religion, Mr. Heckard will be working for the Council on Christian Unity on a part-time basis.

The addition of Mr. Heckard to the staff has been made necessary by the expanding work of the Council. Since its re-organization in 1954, the Council's program of service to Disciples of Christ and to other communions around the world has been enlarged to include such things as consultation on inter-church aid to victims of war, earthquake, flood, and other disasters; the exchange of pastors, professors, and other fraternal workers; the sponsoring of an ecumenical scholarship program; and initiation of a program of studies of ecumenical issues.

Mr. Heckard will assist in preparing the publications of the Council, in administering ecumenical scholarships, and in preparing the Christian unity materials for the 1958-59 "Year of Emphasis."



Mr. Robert W. Heckard

OBERLIN DECISIONS AND FOLLOW-UP

Follow-up action proposed by the North American Faith and Order Conference which ended at Oberlin, Sept. 10, included the following:

1) The creation of "appropriate agencies," presumably a Faith and Order department, by the U. S. Conference for the World Council of Churches and the National Council of Churches "as may best serve the churches in the U. S. A. in their common concerns for aspects of Faith and Order peculiar to the American scene and as may enhance their participation, separately and together, in the concerns for Faith and Order of the whole ecumenical movement." Such a department already exists in the Canadian Council of Churches.

2) Implementation of an ongoing theological study of the nature of the church and its unity at the two dimensions of "enduring function" or primary order and "transitory embodiment" or secondary organization.

3) An ongoing study "of the ecclesiological significance of local, state and national councils of churches."

4) Publication of three documents from the Conference itself: one, a study document for local churches to be written by reporters from the twelve working sections; another, the findings and recommendations of the twelve sections, to be referred to the churches for information and study; and a third to include the reports of the three main divisions together with the Message and some of the principal preparatory documents. The (Disciples) Christian Board of Publication will be official publishers of the conference materials, which they hope to have ready by January.

The Disciples' delegation will also prepare a "Response to Oberlin," as has been done after previous Faith and Order Conferences and World Council Assemblies.

Annual meeting and luncheon of the Council on Christian Unity, Saturday noon, Oct. 12, Hollenden Hotel.

Tickets remaining after Oct. 1 will be available to non-members, $2.50, from the Council office.

A MESSAGE TO THE CHURCHES

From the North American Faith and Order Conference
on "The Nature of the Unity We Seek"
Sponsored by the U. S. Conference for the World Council of Churches,
the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U. S. A., and the
Canadian Council of Churches
Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio
September 10, 1957

We have been sent as representatives of our Churches to the North American Conference on Faith and Order to study "The Nature of the Unity We Seek." The fact of our commissioning as delegates by our own Communions has contributed immeasurably, we believe, to the productiveness of our labors. It has assured us that the search for ways of making manifest the unity of the People of God is acknowledged as belonging to the very life and mission of every part of the Church. In the work of this Conference we have been disciplined by the remembrance of the representative trust imposed in us, and we have been upheld by the prayers and hopes of many fellow-Christians.

Meeting at Oberlin for this week-long Conference have been 279 representatives of thirty-nine Christian bodies, together with ninety-two consultants and thirty-six accredited observers. We give thanks that the Conference has been so inclusive in its membership that all of us have been encouraged by solidarities among Christians of the most varied inheritances.

At the same time we are saddened by the absence of members of other Churches whom we recognize as fellow-Christians, and we ask forgiveness for any failure of charity or understanding in us which may have kept them apart from our fellowship.

Gathered to consider the nature of the unity we seek, we give thanks for the unity we have found. This unity not only exists but is entirely the gift of God's grace and love. We are claimed for this unity as we confess with one voice "while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us"; as we acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord; and as we accept His commission to declare to all men the good news of His victory. This is the Gospel which has ultimate power to shatter the human heart with wonder and shake the world with hope.

As we have known a common joy in the unity we now possess, we have also felt a common sorrow over the continuing fact of our separations one from another. We acknowledge the one Lord; we also own the peril of calling him "Lord, Lord," and failing to do the things He has commanded. We cannot forget that His prayer for the unity of His followers remains unfulfilled. Although some of our divisions arise out of loyalty to truth that we now see, we must acknowledge that Christ calls us to a fuller comprehension of truth and more obedient service. To proclaim that Christ is the one Lord is to give Him pre-eminence over all else—our most cherished traditions. This we have not done.

Yet God gives us hope. We do not see clearly the path that God has set before us but we are sure that He is leading us, and that at Oberlin He has given us new light.

In this light we see that the Church is God's Church and that the unity is His unity. This unity, we believe, is to be:

—A unity in Christ who died for us, is risen, regnant, and will come again to gather together all things in His judgment and grace;

—A unity in adoration of God,—one offering of wonder, love and praise;

—A unity of declared faith, sounding the vast Amen of the whole Church's believing life through all the centuries;

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DSF Votes Intent to Merge

The Disciples Student Fellowship National Ecclesia Conference, meeting at Lake Geneva in Wisconsin in August, voted "that the Ecclesia Council (the voting body of the Conference) declare its intention to enter wholeheartedly into the merger of some American Student Christian Movements (tentatively called the United Campus Christian Fellowship), subject to ratification of the 1960 Ecclesia."

Those involved in the merger negotiation are the Disciples Student Fellowship, the Westminster Student Fellowship (Presbyterian U.S.A.), the United Student Fellowship (United Church of Christ) and the students of the Evangelical United Brethren Church.

Negotiations for the merger have been going on for two years, and intensive study has been taking place at both local and national levels. On several campuses, student fellowships had already merged prior to the present merger discussions.

While the present stage of the merger movement involves only the national organizations of the student fellowships, the DSF National Ecclesia Council recognizes that such a merger would have implications for local groups and has instructed its executive committee to engage with interested Brotherhood agencies in a process of interpretation and study of these implications before the 1960 vote.

Five Churches Join World Council

Five new churches were accepted into membership in the World Council of Churches at the Yale University meeting of the Central Committee, August, 1957.

This brings the total membership to 170 Protestant, Anglican and Orthodox churches. The new members are the Presbyterian Church of East Africa, the Presbyterian Church of Jamaica, the Burma Baptist Convention, the Evangelical Lutheran Church (United States) and the Gereformeerde Churches in Indonesia. (E.P.S.)

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST IS FORMED

The merger of the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the Congregational-Christian Churches, under consideration for 17 years, was consummated in Cleveland on June 25-27.

The United Church of Christ concluded its first synod with a message to "the whole Church of Jesus Christ throughout the world." The message said the United Church "is stricken in conscience at its continuing separation from the rest of the Church, and it prays for the day when the greater Church of Jesus Christ, now hindered by many divisions will come to visible reality in one flock with one Shepherd, the influence of One who is alive in every part of His Church." (E.P.S.)

The new United Church is of particular concern to Disciples of Christ who for many years have had friendly conversations with the Congregationalists concerning merger possibilities. The 1947 Assembly of the International Convention of Disciples of Christ authorized the Council on Christian Unity (then, the Association for the Promotion of Christian Unity) "to explore the possibilities of our sharing in this growing body of unity." The 1956 Convention Assembly, meeting in Des Moines, re-affirmed by unanimous vote the action of the 1947 Assembly. In pursuance of this action taken by the International Convention, representatives of the Council on Christian Unity are conferring with representatives of the United Church about possible areas of further exploration and study.

Even though the new United Church of Christ is called a "united" church, responsible leaders of it insist that they should properly be regarded as a "uniting" church.

National and World Council Budgets

Disciples support the National and World Councils through their local church budgets. Churches not having items for these councils in their budgets are urged to include them. Contributions should be sent direct (with the notations, "for Disciples quota") to National Council of Churches, 297 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y., and World Council of Churches, 156 Fifth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.

Canadian Disciples Create Unity Committee

The following resolution was passed unanimously by the All-Canada Convention of the Churches of Christ of Canada:

Whereas, our movement came into being with a desire and a plan for the reunion of all Christians, and whereas we have ourselves contributed to the sins of division, BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that we seek God's forgiveness and further seek God's guidance in regard to our responsibility in answering our Lord's prayer that "they all may be one."

Whereas, the need for a wider expression of unity and co-operation among all Christians is increasingly evident as the work of the Church in Canada expands in outreach and extends in service, and whereas in the Church circles of our day the matter of the union of the Body of Christ is being studied with much earnest searching and prayer, BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that this Convention establish a committee to give leadership among our Churches on all matters of ecumenical interest and concern, which committee in liason with the Council on Christian Unity of the International Convention shall be authorized to hold conversations with other Christian bodies in search of a better understanding and closer fellowship and a possible basis of union.

Members of the committee appointed by the Convention are Howard Wakelin, chairman, K. S. Wills, Elmer Stainton, W. M. Porter, Ross Jeffries, and O. W. McCully. Three consultants named as liaison representatives are Robert Tobias, Ronald Osborn, and Howard Short.

11 DISCIPLES ATTEND WORLD COUNCIL MEETINGS

The tenth annual meeting of the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches was held in July and August on the campus of Yale Divinity School in New Haven, Connecticut.

The purpose of the meeting was to review, critize and improve the work of the World Council. With staff, observers and others called in for specific service, a total of 160 men and women from 21 different countries were present.

Recommendations concerning the day-to-day work of the Council were submitted by its three divisions—Study, Ecumenical Action and the Division of Interchurch Aid and Service to Refugees. Each of these has departments and sub-committees whose task it is to keep in touch with the vast work the churches are doing together in many parts of the world.

Participating in one or more of these working groups as members or consultants were ten Disciples from the United States and one from Great Britian. The latter was William Baker of Edinburgh. Those from the U.S.A. included Harry B. Adams, George W. Buckner, Russell Harrison, Ronald E. Osborn, Robert Tobias, Roy G. Ross, Virgil A. Sly, William McKinney, Mrs. James D. Wyker, and Jesse M. Bader.

In this first meeting since the Hungarian crisis, special attention was given to reports of the role of the World Council churches in that situation. It was made known that $771,390 was given for Hungarian and Eastern European refugees and inter-church aid in response to the November, 1956, appeal of the World Council. Comment was made on "the readiness of churches—large and small, rich and poor in almost every part of the world—to help in solving the tremendous problem created by the exodus of the refugees."

Next Assembly To Be In Ceylon

Kandy, Ceylon has been named by the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches as the probable site of the Third Assembly in 1960.

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scholarship has been awarded for the year 1957-58 by Brite College of the Bible to Joe Enochs, a student at Brite.

Funds have been provided by the Irwin-Sweeney-Miller Foundation for an annual ecumenical scholarship not limited to students, and Bryer Jones of Prince Edward Island has been awarded the first of these scholarships for study at the Graduate School in Switzerland.

Lectureship exchanges. Together with the Graduate School of Theology (Phillips), The College of the Bible (Lexington) and the School of Religion (Butler), the Council brought Dr. and Mrs. Hans Herman Walz, Executive Secretary of the German Kirchentag, for a series of lectures on the three campuses.

Department of Ecumenical Study

Irvin E. Lunger, Chairman

The Director, Ronald E. Osborn, attended the World Council of Churches' consultation on theological education and the meeting of the Faith and Order Working Committee in Germany, 1956, and has served on the arrangements committee for the Oberlin Faith and Order Conference on "The Nature of the Unity We Seek."

Local Church Studies. Twenty-seven local study groups on the Oberlin theme were set up under the leadership of Howard Short, and a valuable commentary produced for the Oberlin planning committee and delegates.

Study Committees. A study sub-committee chaired by William Moore has prepared a document on the World Council of Churches' study topic "The Lordship of Christ Over the Church and the World." Another sub-committee is working at a re-study of the statement adopted by the World Council of Churches' Central Committee (Toronto, 1951) entitled, "The Church, The Churches and the World Council of Churches." Several other studies are in the hands of working groups which are preparing commentaries or original statements.

Interest in the (Greenwich) Plan of Union increased following discussion at the Des Moines Assembly and copies have been made available on request to many individuals.

Literature and Interpretation

Publications have included the quarterly *Newsletter* and the occasional *Ecumenical Studies Series.* Significant literature from Councils of Churches and from churches negotiating unions has been sent to members and other Disciple leaders. A nearly complete set of the Christian Union Quarterly has been secured through the Historical Society.

The Council notes with appreciation a significant contribution of the Christian Board of Publication in providing copies of *Christian Worship, A Hymnal* and *Christian Worship, A Service Book* to the Ecumenical Institute, Switzerland.

Special Projects

The Annual Peter Ainslie Memorial Lecture, sponsored by the Council, was delivered this year at Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa, by Dr. J. B. Webb on the subject "The Methodist Church and Its Place in the Church Catholic."

In Japan the Council has supported a special study of evangelism and church membership by a committee of the Kyodan of which Hal Shorrock is secretary.

A special "Call to Prayer" to all Disciple congregations was issued on the occasion of the uniting of the Evangelical and Reformed and Congregational-Christian Churches.

Messages of fellowship and concern to churches abroad celebrating special occasions or in particular distress have gone out from the Council on behalf of the Brotherhood.

Mention should be made of the considerable amounts of time and energy given by Disciple leaders to committees and conferences of the World Council, the National Council and other regional ecumenical efforts, which are a significant ecumenical service the Brotherhood can rejoice to render.

Unity Events At Cleveland

Saturday, October 12

7:15-9:15—World Outreach Breakfast on Ecumenical World Service (tickets on sale in advance at the International Convention Office). Hollenden Hotel, Ballroom.

12:05—Council on Christian Unity, Annual Meeting and Luncheon. Hollenden Hotel, Assembly Room.
Speaker: Dr. Fred Hoskins, United Church of Christ.

5:00—Council's Board of Directors meeting and dinner. Auditorium Hotel, St. Clair Room.

Sunday, October 13

4:00-5:00—Ecumenical Communion Service—In cooperation with Cleveland Church Federation. Public Auditorium.
"A New Man in Christ"—Bishop Richard C. Raines, Indianapolis.

Monday, October 14

2:30—Convention Panel, "The Nature of the Unity We Seek"—Dr. Hampton Adams, presiding.
"Implications for Christian Life in Changing America"—Mrs. George Earle Owen, Indianapolis.
"Implications for Disciples Theology and Brotherhood Life"—Howard Elmo Short, Lexington.
"Implications for Local Churches"—John Paul Pack, Seattle.

Tuesday, October 15

7:15-9:15—World Outreach Breakfast on Ecumenical World Service (tickets on sale in advance at the International Convention Office). Hollenden Hotel, Ballroom.

3:30-5:15—Sharathon—Panel and Discussion — "The Local Church in Christian Unity"—W. J. Jarman, presiding.
"Christian Unity in Worship"—Robert Burns.
"Christian Unity in Study"—Daniel Joyce.
"Christian Unity in Service"—Frank Helme.
"Christian Unity in Fellowship"—Hampton Adams.

7:00—Convention Address—"The Face of the Church in the World Today"—Dr. Franklin Clark Fry, New York City.

Wednesday, October 16

7:15-9:15—World Outreach Breakfast on Ecumenical World Service (tickets on sale in advance at the International Convention Office). Hollenden Hotel, Ballroom.

Christian Unity Newsletter: Issued quarterly to members and friends of the Council by the Council On Christian Unity (an association of Disciples of Christ for the promotion of Christian unity, for ecumenical fellowship and service), 222 S. Downey Ave., Indianapolis 7, Indiana, U. S. A.

A MESSAGE TO THE CHURCHES

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—A unity of bearing one another's burdens and sharing one another's joys;
—A unity in which every ministry is a ministry of and for all the members, bound together in a worshipping and sacremental community;
—A unity in mission to the world, originating with, sustained by and offered to the one Christ, and conducted with such transparency of love and faithfulness that the world will believe on Him;
—A unity possessing rich variety in worship, life and organization.

Our message to the Churches is an expression of desire and hope that something of what we have thought, experienced and wrought during these days together may be shared widely with our fellow-Christians.

(1) We commend a study of the reports of this Conference. We invite all Churches, aided by these reports and findings, to engage with us in bringing their present life under the judgment of the Lord of the Whole Church as we struggle to understand the unity we seek.

(2) We call upon every local church and congregation to examine the way in which it makes visible the nature of the Church of Christ. It is not only our separations as Churches and denominations but in our social stratification, our racial segregation, our introversion and self-content despite God's summons to our mission to the world, that we deny and refuse the unity He would offer us.

(3) We look for continuing advance in the practical unity of united action by Churches and congregations, and, with the Lund Conference and the Evanston Assembly, we repeat to the Churches the question "whether they should not act together in all matters except those in which deep differences of conviction compel them to act separately?"

(4) We ask all Christians to pray unceasingly that the oneness of God's people may be manifest among men.

As we invite our brethren to engage in this task of study and self-examination we also covet for them the renewal of joy, expectancy and hope that has been ours in this Conference. We have known more surely that in Christ "are all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge hidden"—not alone for the life of the Churches in their quest for unity but for all the People of God in their pilgrimage.

Minear To Give 1957 Hoover Lectures

Paul S. Minear, noted theologian of Yale University, will deliver the 1957 Hoover Lectures on Christian Unity at the University of Chicago on November 18-20.

The lectures are sponsored by the Disciples Divinity House. In conjunction there will be a Conference on Christian Unity under the auspices of the Church Federation of Greater Chicago.

Dr. Minear's lectures will deal with the New Testament understanding of the church. Dr. Minear was the organizing secretary for the Faith and Order Conference held at Oberlin, Ohio, Sept. 3-10. The findings of this conference will be the basis for discussion in the Chicago Conference on Christian Unity.